

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SECTO 03046 301652Z

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 L-03 FBO-02 EUR-12

A-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 SY-05 MED-02 /057 W

-----301725Z 057198 /44

O 301600Z MAR 77 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTO 3046

1. EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO DURING MORNING SESSION OF TALKS IN KREMLIN MARCH 30.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH MAY BE USED ON AN IF ASKED BASIS BY DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY SPOKESMAN. THIS GUIDANCE SUPPLEMENTS "FACT SHEET" PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT BY SEPTTEL.
BEGIN TEXT

Q: WHO WAS ON THE US AND SOVIET NEGOTIATION TEAMS?

A: THE US TEAM WAS LED BY CHARLES V. SWAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN BUILDINGS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WERE THOMAS, TRACY, ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW; ROBERT L. BARRY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SOVIET UNION AFFAIRS
BRUCE CLARK, ATTORNEY, OFFICE OF FOREIGN BUILDINGS; PAUL STANGE, EUROPEAN REGIONAL OFFICER, OFFICE OF FOREIGN BUILDINGS; CHARLES REX HELLMAN, ARCHITECT, OFFICE OF FOREIGN BUILDINGS.

THE SOVIET TEAM WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW AS WELL AS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS HEADED BY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SECTO 03046 301652Z

AMBASSADOR V.N. KUZNETSOV, CHIEF OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE FOR SERVICE TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORP OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Q: WHY ARE WE LETTING THE SOVIETS BEGIN THEIR CONSTRUCTION IN WASHINGTON BEFORE WE BEGIN OURS IN MOSCOW?

A: THE PLANNING FOR THE TWO PROJECTS HAS NOT PROCEEDED IN PHASE.

THE SOVIET PROJECT IN WASHINGTON IS CONSIDERABLY SIMPLER SINCE BOTH THE PLANNING AND THE CONSTRUCTION ARE TO BE DONE BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS. THE US PROJECT INVOLVES ADAPTING US PLANS TO SOVIET CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN READY TO GO IN WASHINGTON FOR SOME TIME ALREADY AND WE HAVE JUST REACHED THE BEGINNING OF THE SOVIET PLANNING STAGE HERE. IN RETURN FOR SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON OUR PROJECT HERE AND IMPROVED FACILITIES FOR OUR EMBASSY IN THE INTERIM UNTIL THE NEW US PROJECT IS COMPLETED, WE HAVE AGREED TO LET THEM GO AHEAD IN WASHINGTON.

Q: WHAT ABOUT RECIPROCITY?

A: THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT BOTH PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETE AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AND THE NEW OFFICE BUILDING MUST BE OCCUPIED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Q: WHY ARE YOU LETTING THEM BUILD A NEW BUILDING IN WASHINGTON WHILE THEY ARE STILL BEAMING MICROWAVES AGAINST YOUR BUILDING HERE?

A: WE FULLY EXPECT THE MICROWAVE PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED LONG BEFORE THE TWO PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN THE SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO STOP THE MICROWAVES?

A: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD DO SO AND WE EXPECT THEM TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THIS.

Q: WHERE ARE THE PLOTS OF LAND LOCATED?

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SECTO 03046 301652Z

A: THE PLOT WE ARE GETTING ADJOINS THE PRESENT EMBASSY SITE. IT IS NOW PARTIALLY ENCLOSED BY A FENCE AND SOME SITE PREPARATION IS UNDERWAY. THE SOVIET SITE IS NOW THE OLD MT. ALTO VETERANS HOSPITAL IN WASHINGTON ON WISCONSIN AVENUE NEAR MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE.

Q: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT GROUND TO BE BROKEN IN MOSCOW?

A: THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT SITE PREPARATION WORK WILL BEGIN ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 AS SOON AS THE SOVIET PLANNING FOR THE PLANNING HAS REACHED THE NECESSARY STAGE. ACTUAL BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION IS SET FOR MAY 15, 1978.

Q: HAVEN'T THERE BEEN SOME EARLIER AGREEMENTS?

A: YES, WE AGREED ON AN EXCHANGE OF EMBASSY SITES IN 1969 AND ON THE CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO EMBASSY PROJECTS IN 1972. THIS PRESENT AGREEMENT SIMPLY IMPLEMENTS THE TWO PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS.

Q: DID SECRETARY VANCE SIGN THE CURRENT AGREEMENT?

A: NO. THE AGREEMENT WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. AMBASSADOR TOON AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KORNIYENKO EXCHANGED THE NOTES AT ONE OF THE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS IN THE KREMLIN ON MARCH 30.

Q: HOW MUCH IS THE US PROJECT GOING TO COST?

A: WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE UNTIL THE ESTIMATES ARE COMPLETE IN DECEMBER 1977, BUT WE ESTIMATE AROUND \$75 MILLION. DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WE ESTABLISHED SOME GUIDELINES WHICH PROVIDE THAT OUR COST WON'T BE HIGHER THAN WASHINGTON CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

Q: WHO DID THE US DESIGN?

A: THE ARCHITECTS ARE SKIDMORE, OWINGS AND MERRIL OF SAN FRANCISCO. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SECTO 03046 301652Z

Q: ARE THE NEW US FACILITIES GOING TO BE MUCH LARGER THAN OUR PRESENT FACILITIES?

A: THE US COMPLEX WILL CONTAIN ABOUT 630,000 SQUARE FEET AND WILL ACCOMMODATE SOME 130 FAMILIES. WE WILL ALSO RETAIN SOME APARTMENTS OUTSIDE THE NEW COMPLEX. WE WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY MORE OFFICE SPACE AND IMPROVED SCHOOL AND REPRESENTATIONAL FACILITIES.
END TEXT.
VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, TEXT, INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRESS RELEASES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO03046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770109-0242
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977036/aaaaafaf.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7934f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3109176
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: SOPN, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7934f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009